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Microquasars to AGN: An uniform Jet variability

Active Galactic Nuclei (AGN) are astrophysical sources powered by the accretion of material onto super-massive black holes at the centers of galaxies, emitting energy across the entire electromagnetic spectrum. AGNs often exhibit significant variability at different wavelengths, spanning timescales from minutes to years. Micro-variability can occur on minute scales, intra-day variability over hours, and long-term variability over months or even years. Rapid changes in brightness can be driven by various mechanisms, such as magneto-hydrodynamic instabilities in the accretion disk or jets, shocks, or magnetic reconnections within the jets, and even relativistic effects influenced by the jet's orientation. A clear trend was observed when the variability time scale of AGN was plotted as a function of their black hole mass. This highlights a link between the accretion disc and the relativistic jet, a connection similarly observed in microquasars. In our study, we analyzed AGNs, including 7 blazars, 1 radio galaxy, 1 narrow-line Seyfert 1 galaxy, 2 unclassified blazar candidates, and 2 microquasars, using gamma-ray data. Our findings provide indirect evidence supporting a universal scaling law, suggesting that the mechanism responsible for jet production is independent of black hole mass.

Field of contribution

Theory

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